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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend William A. Watson, Jr., Pastor, St. John's Baptist Church, Westbury, New York, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the Earth. I thank You for this privilege to pray. Thank You for this occasion that brought us together. Thank You for all of Your loving kindness and tender mercy toward us. I ask Your favor in all our decisions.

Please, Lord, be with us as we make decisions for our future. Grant us clear minds as we serve Your people to the best of our abilities.

Thank You for all these favors, and we will be mindful that all glory and honor belong to You. This is Your servant's prayer. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MCCARTHY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND WILLIAM A. WATSON, JR.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my friend, the Reverend William A. Watson of St. John's Baptist Church in Westbury, New York, for offering the opening prayer before the House this morning.

He is someone who is truly worthy of this honor. Reverend Watson is also the head of the Eastern Baptist Association. He is not only a leader in his congregation but an asset to all of Long Island and the entire New York region.

Whether it is keeping young people from joining gangs, helping people gain job skills or improving access to health care, Reverend Watson is a tireless advocate for those in need. Mr. Speaker, I salute Reverend Watson for his great work.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches on each side.

"HEIGH-HO SILVER"—AND THE BORDER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Congress is back in session, and our first major piece of legislation, to protect horses. You see, three or four places in America buy old horses and sell the meat to the French, for goodness sake, so we are going to protect American horses.

So we are going to protect American horses, the likes of Silver, Trigger and Buttercup, from the carnivorous French. This horse security bill will even provide a sanctuary or rest home for those old horses. Well, this Congress needs to be as concerned about border security as we are about horse security.

We need a border security bill with no add-ons that even the Senate will approve. Deal with border security before we talk about the contentious issues of immigration and illegals in this country. Why are we putting horse security at the forefront and not border security?

The American public expects and deserves better. Protecting America's borders should be our first priority. That needs to be our first duty. Stop the invasion at the border, then we can worry about the Europeans eating our horses, otherwise our country will ride off like the Lone Ranger and a "Heigh-Ho Silver" into the sunset of history.

And that's just the way it is.

FIVE YEARS LATE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, after 5 years the President who ignored the memo that bin Laden wanted to attack the United States is belatedly taking steps to bring to trial suspected terrorists. Why the sudden change of heart? Well, the public is fed up with the bungling, the secret prisons and torture. The Supreme Court has ruled that the administration's approach was unconstitutional. All of this has created a political tide that has forced the President's hand.

But now is the time for the Congress, which has been asleep at the switch allowing the administration's despicable excesses, to do its job. Instead of rubber stamping the administration's flawed and belated proposal, Congress should do what it should have done in the first place: Ensure that justice is done, the enemies of the United States are punished, and America's tarnished image of justice is restored.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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A LETTER FROM IRAQ

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, from a second lieutenant platoon leader in Iraq: "If you watch the news, you know that the greater Baghdad area is in turmoil. We are on the outskirts of the city, controlling the rural area between Baghdad, Ramadi and Fallujah. We believe the area became hostile when terrorist cells fled here during the coalition invasion of the urban areas.

"Now our task is to control this area and give the enemy no safe haven. We are spread thin, but we are getting the job down. The television highlights every explosion and loss of life. But you miss what we do. You miss my soldiers giving water and food to local nationals. You miss my soldiers giving the little kids high-fives and soccer balls. You miss my soldiers replacing sewer systems and rebuilding roads. You miss my medic treating the locals for injuries.

"The news shows death, murder and violence, but daily I see smiles, hard work and hope. Is the area in turmoil? Yes. Is it lost? No, and every day American soldiers bring hope to these people. You won't see it in the morning paper or the evening news, but I am telling you it is here. I know it. I am seeing it, and I am doing it.

"I miss everyone and look forward to coming home. Know that your Army is making you proud to be an American. God bless America."

However, we spend our new found time planning and running missions into unoccupied territory, looking to bring the fight to an enemy who likes to stay hidden. I like the new tempo, because its aggressive and suits the guy's personality much more than a defensive campaign. I am positive that my guys would choose to air assault onto a hostile objective before they would want to defend a quiet base. They are good at their jobs, and love being challenged under pressure.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow my Texas colleague, in fact my neighbor in the Houston area, and say the House is spending more time today on this horse bill than we are on homeland security, and we need to deal with that. We need to protect our borders, ports and airports.

If you don't like the bill, I am a co-sponsor of it, you can just vote "nay."

Mr. Speaker, the reason I am here today is because I recently learned that the U.S. Department of Education failed to award the LULAC National Education Service Centers a grant under the Talent Search Program.

The LULAC Talent Search program has been one of the largest talent search grantees since it was first awarded in 1979. This program serves over 12,000 students in some of the country's most disadvantaged areas. These cuts will severely impact the Hispanic community that I represent.

In my Houston area, the local LULAC Council 402 has been an integral part of serving students in our area for years. Just last year, LULAC Council 402 served students in our area and they raised \$32,000 separately to match the Federal funds. This program nationwide serves thousands and serves our Nation, and now the Department of Education has decided to turn out the lights on these centers. I hope someone in the Department of Education is listening.

SECRETARY RUMSFELD SERVES NATION WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong objection to the blatant partisan move of the Senate Democrats and their partisan agenda to force a vote of no confidence in Donald Rumsfeld. It is transparent that the Democrats are making this a political issue and hope to polarize the American people and their views on the war on terror. They are attempting to overshadow and downplay our successes in Iraq and the Republican agenda for winning the war on terror.

A difference of opinion should not equal a vote of no confidence. In our democracy, there will always be room for debate and disagreement, but political posturing and defamation of character have no place in a civilized debate.

Secretary Rumsfeld has worked tirelessly with Iraqi government officials and its military to bring freedom and democracy to a formerly tyrannical regime while fighting against terrorists and insurgents who threaten Iraqis and Americans stationed there.

Mr. Speaker, I stand firm in my resolve to ensure victory not only in Iraq but also in the global war on terror. Secretary Rumsfeld is serving our Nation with dignity and honor and should be treated as such whether you agree with his actions or not.

STRUGGLING FAMILIES

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the struggle of American working families. The Census Bureau reported that American families are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to make ends meet and going deeper into debt, even as they are

working harder and are more productive.

Housing costs and interest rates are skyrocketing. The income of American families continues to stagnate even as health care, energy and college costs keep going up. The number of Americans without health insurance has risen by 16 percent to 46 million people, equal to the population of 24 States and the District of Columbia.

This includes more than one-third of my constituents in east Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley, not to mention the 5 million more Americans living in poverty under this administration.

We need a new direction to help America's working families achieve the American dream, not more tax breaks for the wealthy oil corporations. I urge my colleagues to please reject the failed economic policies of the Republican Congress and instead honor hard work, fair wages and economic growth.

WINNING THE WAR ON TERRORISM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, while traveling by bus through the 10 counties of South Carolina's Second Congressional District last month, I spoke with constituents about the resolve of America for victory in the global war on terrorism. I repeatedly heard that we must maintain our resolve for winning this war to protect American families.

As several recent successes prove, we are winning the war on terrorism. Nine men suspected of plotting a terrorist attack in Denmark have been arrested. British police detained 14 people suspected of operating terrorist training camps. Iraqi authorities arrested the number two al Qaeda murderer in Iraq. U.S. and British authorities stopped a plot to target U.S.-bound airplanes. Germany and India foiled terrorist attacks in their homelands.

Countries that were reluctant to join with us in the war on terrorism are learning they cannot escape its effects. This is not just a war against America; this is a war against all freedom-loving nations.

With four sons in the military, I am grateful for the dedication of American servicemembers symbolized by the heroism of Cpl David Weimortz of Irmo.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

PROBLEMS IN AMERICA

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans went home for a month and listened to people and watched the decimation of Lebanon. They watched the continuing mess in Iraq. The President cancelled the return of 13,000 people, or Mr. Rumsfeld did, and they are